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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by the Reverend Marshal Ausberry, Sr., from Antioch Baptist Church in Fairfax Station, VA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Dear Lord, we pause at this moment to thank You for the day at hand: a day that You have given us. In this day, may You grant us wisdom and grace to do what is right, what is best, though it may not always be popular or politically expedient, but may it be right and best.

I ask Your blessings over each man and woman who serves in this body. As we serve our communities, our constituents, and our country, may we do it with respect, as we engage in sometimes spirited debate.

Dear Lord, grant us the ability to clearly see the common ground that unites us so we may work together to address the great challenges confronting our Nation.

May we appreciate that You have raised us up for such a time as this and not we ourselves. We pray that You will keep Your hand, Your mighty hand upon this great Nation and protect us from those who would do us harm.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 12, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The Senate will recess from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. for the ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda honoring the 200th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln. All Members are encouraged to attend.

It is the leader's intention to try to bring for consideration today the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act Conference Report. They are continuing to work on it as we speak in the hopes of accomplishing that goal.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN ON THE BICENTENNIAL OF HIS BIRTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have a resolution commemorating the life and legacy of President Lincoln, which I wish to offer if it meets with the approval of the Republican leader.

I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 38, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 38) commemorating the life and the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln on the bicentennial of his birth.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 38) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 38

Whereas President Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, to modest means, in a 1-room log cabin in Kentucky;

Whereas Abraham Lincoln spent his childhood in Indiana, and, despite having less than a year of formal schooling, developed an avid love of reading and learning;

Whereas Abraham Lincoln arrived in Illinois at the age of 21;

Whereas, while living in Illinois, Abraham Lincoln met and married his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, built a successful legal practice, served in the State legislature of Illinois, was elected to Congress, and participated in the famous "Lincoln-Douglas" debates;

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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